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MODERN PUNCTUATION. Its Utilities and Conventions. By George Summey, Jr. New York: Oxford University Press.

This is a treatment of punctuation as an art, not a mere formulation of rigid rules. "Most problems of punctuation, aside from the easy one of finding what is permissible, may be reduced to questions of (1) clearness, (2) management of emphasis, (3) movement, including economy and variety." Chapters IV-VII deal with punctuation marks according to their functions, chapter VIII treats the various points one by one. Chapter IX considers some types of punctuation as seen in current books and periodicals. "Unquestionably," says Mr. Summey, "there is need of a better understanding of an art—an art and not a code—which is practiced blindly or intelligently by all who speak through type." His own study, based on first-hand investigation of practice in recent American-printed books and periodicals, should prove a useful book both to teachers of English and contributors to the magazines.

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PRONUNCIATION OF STANDARD ENGLISH IN AMERICA. By George Philip Krapp. New York: Oxford University Press.

For those who desire an inflexible standard of pronunciation by which to model their own speech this book will prove a disappointment, for Professor Krapp, like Professor Lounsbury in his *Authority in English Pronunciation*, comes to the conclusion that "we have no standard beyond opinion, which in a democratic society must always be many-headed." Instead, then, of furnishing lists of words often mispronounced, he gives chapters on the mechanism of speech, description of sounds, their nature and their occurrence, in order to show how the whole subject should be approached, and what principles should guide the student in choosing one pronunciation rather than another, so that an intelligent person may observe and record accurately and make his own dictionary as he goes along. Thus in line with the social, political, and religious tendencies of to-day Professor Krapp, instead of inculcating a blind adherence to authority, throws upon the individual the burden of observing for himself and deciding for himself, and pleads for "a broad charity in judgment where there is a diversity of opinion and practice among reasonable people."